


holes 13. Specifically, we prepared test samples of the gas sensor 3 which have a common outer diameter $D2$ of 9mm and outer diameters ~~$D2$~~ $D1$ of different values and measured the response rates of the test samples in a manner similar to the above. Test results are illustrated in a graph of Fig. 10. The graph shows that the response rate increases as the difference between $D1$ and $D2$ (i.e., $D2-D1$) increases.

3/8/08  Please replace the paragraphs appearing at page ²³~~13~~, lines 2 – 13, with the revised paragraphs:

The inner cover 1 has a gentle curvature~~200~~ beneath the straight side wall 11 around the gas holes 13 and 14. The straight side wall 11 has a diameter that is uniform over a length thereof. The gentle curvature~~200~~ defines a conical shape of the top portion of the inner cover 1. The distances $L1$ and $L2$ are 0.5mm and 2mm, respectively.

The gentle curvature~~200~~ works to facilitate formation of a flow of gas directed from the top end to the base end of the inner cover 1 along the side wall 11, thus enhancing ease of entrance of the gas into the inner cover 1. Other arrangements are identical with those in the first embodiment, and explanation thereof in detail will be omitted here.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 13, with the revised paragraph:

The head portion of the laminated sensing element 36 is, like the sixth embodiment, installed in the cover assembly 31. The cover assembly 31 has, like the tenth embodiment, a triple-walled structure in order to enhance the ability of the cover assembly 31 to protect the sensing element 36 from water contained in the gas to be measured. Specifically, the cover assembly 31 includes a second inner cover 54 retained outside the inner cover 1. The second inner cover 54 is made of a hollow cylinder 541 with a bottom and has a diameter that is uniform over a length thereof.